

Amendments to the Abstract

Please delete the Abstract appearing in the front page of the PCT publication and add the following new Abstract:

A maximum of Nmax bits for encoding is defined for a set of parameters which may be calculated from a signal frame. The parameters for a first sub-set are calculated and encoded with N0 bits, where $N0 < Nmax$. The allocation of $Nmax - N0$ encoding bits for the parameters of a second sub-set are determined and the encoding bits allocated to the parameters for the second sub-set are classified. The allocation and/or order of classification of the encoding bits are determined as a function of the encoding parameters for the first sub-set. For a total of N available bits for the encoding of the total parameters ($N0 < N = Nmax$), the parameters for the second sub-set allocated the $N - N0$ encoding bits classified the first in said order are selected. Said selected parameters are calculated and encoded to give the $N - N0$ bits. The $N0$ encoding bits for the first sub-set and the $N - N0$ encoding bits for the selected parameters for the second sub-set are finally introduced into the output sequence of the encoder.

A replacement Abstract is attached hereto on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.72.